

Application No. 09/701,501
Amendment & Response dated October 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 29, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend Claims 6, 8, and 16 as indicated in the following Listing of Claims. Please cancel Claims 11 and 13.

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously presented) A process for producing a patterned flexible linoleum sheet material comprising the steps of:
 - dispersing at least one type of mixed mass particles onto at least one side of a rolled linoleum sheet; and
 - substantially warp-free pressing the mixed mass particles into the rolled linoleum sheet such that the particles are not substantially distorted.
2. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein the rolled linoleum sheet having dispersed and pressed-in mixed mass particles is cut, rotated 90°, stacked into a scale-like sheet stack and subsequently rolled into a pattern providing sheet.
3. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein the rolled linoleum sheet having dispersed and pressed-in mixed mass particles is processed directly as a pattern-providing sheet into a flexible linoleum material.
4. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein the particles are pressed into the linoleum sheet by means of a pressing tool.
5. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein the rolled linoleum sheet is uncolored, marbled or speckled.

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6. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the mixed mass particles comprises comprise a smaller proportion of linoleum cement than the rolled linoleum sheet.

7. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein the mixed mass particles are dispersed onto both sides of the rolled linoleum sheet.

8. (Currently amended) A flexible linoleum sheet material comprising a top layer matrix, the top layer matrix having at least one first color and at least one type of contrastingly colored particles embedded in the matrix, wherein the contrastingly colored particles are distributed substantially across the entire thickness of the top layer matrix.

9. (Previously presented) The flexible linoleum sheet material of Claim 8, wherein the top layer is uncolored, marbled or speckled.

10. (Previously presented) The flexible linoleum sheet material of Claim 8 having particle types that are identical or different in size and/or color.

11. (Cancelled)

12.. (Previously presented) The flexible linoleum sheet material of Claim 8, wherein the particles permeate the entire top layer.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The flexible linoleum sheet material of Claim 8, wherein the particles are present in an amount of 10 g/m² to 500 g/m² in relation to the weight of the top layer.

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15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the mixed mass particles are ~~selected from the group consisting of uncolored particles, multicolored particles, or combinations thereof.~~

17. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein the rolled linoleum sheet is uncolored or multicolored.

18. (Previously presented) The flexible linoleum sheet material of Claim 8, wherein the sheet material is a floor covering.